MINISTRY OF PUBLIC BUILDING AND WORKS

Trees in Greenwich Park

SEVENTH REPORT
OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1964

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC BUILDING AND WORKS

Advisory Committee on Forestry

Sir **William Ling Taylor**, C.B.E., F.R.I.C.S. *(Chairman)*
Former Forestry Commissioner and Director General of the Forestry Commission, Past President of the Society of Foresters of Great Britain.

Mr. R. C. B. **Gardner**, O.B.E.
Former Secretary of the Royal Forestry Society of England and Wales.

Sir **Arthur Hulin Gosling**, K.B.E., C.B., F.R.S.E., F.R.I.C.S.
Former Director General of the Forestry Commission.

Lord **Hurcomb**, G.C.B., K.B.E.
Former Chairman of the Nature Conservancy, Chairman of the Committee on Bird Sanctuaries in the Royal Parks.

Mr. G. A. **Jellicoe**, C.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., P.P.I.L.A.
Past President of the Institute of Landscape Architects, Member of the Royal Fine Art Commission.

Sir **George Taylor**, D.Sc., F.R.S.E., F.L.S.
Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Secretary : Mr. A. E. **Coules** (Ministry of Public Building and Works)

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC BUILDING AND WORKS

Advisory Committee on Forestry

SEVENTH REPORT

GREENWICH PARK

To the Right Honourable GEOFFREY RIPPON, M.P.

SIR,

1. When the then Minister, Lord Molson, re-appointed us in 1959 for a further term of office he asked us to consider the problems of arboricultural management in Richmond Park, Hampton Court Park, Bushy Park and Greenwich Park. The first three Parks were the subjects of our fifth and sixth Reports. We now submit our Report on Greenwich Park.

Historical Note

2. In 1433 Henry VI, with the assent of Parliament, granted to his uncle Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, "a licence to enclose two hundred acres of their land, pasture, wood, heath, virses and gorse thereof, to make a park in Greenwich"; the land so granted had till then formed part of Blackheath. Thus Greenwich can claim to be the earliest of the enclosed parklands collectively known as "The Royal Parks", although as a "Royal" Park in the strictest sense it is not as old as St. James's.

3. Duke Humphrey built himself a castle (on the site now occupied by Wren's observatory) in the Park and a country house beside the river which he called Placentia. He fell from grace, however, soon afterwards, and later when the Tudors came to the throne they developed the site into the great Royal Palace of Placentia. The first keeper of the Park was appointed in 1486.

4. Henry VIII, Mary and Elizabeth were born in the Palace, and Edward VI died there, and with the Court frequently at Greenwich it became one of the most important places in England; but, while the Palace grew in importance, the Park appears to have been left to retain the character of the heath from which it had been taken. It remained virtually wild with thorns, birch, gorse, broom, heath, and a few fine oaks; most notable of these latter is the so-called Queen Elizabeth's Oak, still standing though dead since the 1870s, in whose vast hollow trunk (according to legend) offenders against the Park Rules were at one time incarcerated. There must have been a number of old and well-grown trees during the Tudor period since at the instigation of Sir William Boreman (appointed Keeper 1665) from about 1660 onwards much large timber was felled in the Park; an oak fetched £14, a number of elms £5 each, trees from the Wilderness £100, and from another part receipts were £95. These were probably survivors from the time when the Park was part of the

Heath. There are no records of tree-planting before the 17th century, although there survives an account of 1515 for "enstocking" with deer, and 100 or so more were brought from Rayleigh Park, Essex, five years later. Game was still plentiful in 1597, and it is clear that the Park was regarded mainly as a private domain in which to ride and to indulge the Royal sports of hunting and hawking.

5. Under the Stuarts the Court moved away, though James I intended Greenwich for his wife's use and Inigo Jones was commissioned to build the Queen's House, which she did not live to enjoy. As royal interest in Greenwich as a palace waned, interest in the Park increased. Trees and plants to the value of £33 were bought in 1610 ; and Barclay, writing in 1614, says that from the high ground Greenwich looked like a garden and the roads were lined with avenues of tall poplars. In 1619-25 James I had the Park re-enclosed with a brick wall some two miles in length and with an average height of twelve feet. The cost was more than £2,000 and it is basically the same wall that remains today, although it has been altered or reconstructed in several places.

6. Under the Commonwealth, in 1653, Parliament determined to sell the greater part of the Royal Estate at Greenwich including the Park. A buyer was found, one John Parker, who agreed to buy the Queen's House, Castle, Park (or 187 acres of it), trees, 96 deer and a small stock of conies for £5,778 10s. 1d., but the sale was cancelled in 1656, and it was declared that the Park and Palace were fit for the Protector and should be reserved for him. Cromwell is said to have preferred Greenwich to Whitehall.

7. Tree-planting in earnest began in about 1660. The coppices in the east and west wildernesses (today the Deer Park and Ranger's Field) were laid out by Boreman in 1661/2. John Evelyn, who lived nearby at Deptford, and was himself the author of a well-known book on forest trees, refers to the elms being planted in 1664, and the planting of the Chestnut Avenues probably belongs to the preceding year. These two plantings both form part of the scheme, adopted at this time, of laying out the Park to the formal design which it still retains, much impaired, at the present day. A fairly early plan survives in the Pepys Library at Cambridge.

8. The authorship of the design cannot be settled conclusively, but the evidence points to André le Nôtre, the gardener to the French King and the planner of Versailles. It is recorded that Charles II while walking in St. James's expressed the need for le Nôtre's services to lay out his Parks "especially at Greenwich" ; they had met during the years of Charles's exile on the Continent. A letter was certainly sent in 1662 to Louis XIV to ask him to grant leave for le Nôtre to come to England, and the King granted it. A contemporary Treasury statement attributes the design to le Nôtre, and Hawksmoor, writing about the history of Greenwich Hospital, refers to "The Regular Designs of that Most Admirable Person Monsieur le Nôtre in the Esplanades, Walks, Vistas, Plantations, and lines of that beautiful Park ", though this was written in 1727, well after the event.

9. There are several plans showing the layout adopted, and, as at Hampton Court, a *patte d'oie* of Avenues was planned, splaying out, like spokes from the hub of a wheel, from a semi-circle of trees. Instead of the tree-ringed semi-circular court abutting the Palace, however, it was sited at Blackheath

Gate on the opposite side of the Park, and though the main axis (Blackheath Avenue) points directly at the Queen's House, none of the Palace buildings could in fact be seen from the Avenue because of the sharp drop down the hill at its northern end. Conformity to this layout meant that the Avenues were not centrally placed in the Park, and the design is not exactly symmetrical. Nearly all of the design can still be traced on a modern map of the Park, though the semi-circle of trees at Blackheath Gate has gone completely, together with most of the Avenue leading north-westwards from it, and parts of the original scheme have been weakened by the failure to replace trees in the old Avenues and random planting outside them.

10. At the north end of Blackheath Avenue, where the land falls away towards the Queen's House and the River Thames, Boreman constructed a formal terrace with two arms projecting southwards and enclosing within them a large rectangular lawn. In the centre of the terrace he made ascents from the bottom to the top of the hill leading up into Blackheath Avenue. The cost of this work was £543 2s. 6d. Apparently Charles II had contemplated a water-cascade down the hill, but this project was never put in train.

11. The terrace was planted with 600 elms at 17d. each and Scots Pines which were brought from Scotland by General Monk in 1664. None of these trees survives, though there were still some Scots Pines in the Park towards the latter end of last century. Apart from these and the Spanish Chestnuts brought from Lesnes Abbey in Kent, Boreman records in his account that he planted "birch-trees, quicksets, ivy-berries, holy-berries, privie, and ashen keys", but of these virtually none now remains; years of comparative neglect, and for the last century air pollution, have taken their toll. The total bill for the tree plantings came to £545.

12. Active interest in Greenwich as a formal park continued, we may be confident, up to and during the reign of Queen Anne, when Henry Wise was the Royal Gardener. Changes, however, had come over Greenwich towards the end of the 17th century. Royalty had moved away, and the Royal Observatory was constructed in 1675 actually within the Park overlooking the Queen's House. In 1695 the former Royal Palace by the river with its adjoining grounds were made available for the founding of the Royal Naval Hospital. It seems probable that the Royal Park was opened first to the pensioners, and later to the public at large. Certainly in the early 18th century jollification spread into the Park, twice a year at least, at the time of the Greenwich Fair. An essential part of the merriment seems to have been rolling down Observatory Hill. Dr. Johnson in his younger days lodged at Greenwich, and composed his poem "Irene" under the trees of Greenwich Park. Later, in 1763, when the trees must have been almost at their best, he revisited the Park with Boswell. "Is it not fine?" said Johnson; to which Boswell replied, "Yes, but not equal to Fleet Street"; to which Johnson assented.

13. During the 18th century, there is little evidence of serious arboricultural interest being taken in the Park, and this attitude continued to some extent into the following century. Trees decayed or were felled, but no systematic replacements were made, and gaps in avenues were sometimes filled with quite different species. The once thickly planted Wilderness and Ranger's Field are now much less well wooded and few of the trees are old. Office of Works papers from 1795 onwards show roughly how this situation came about. In that year £129 worth of trees were sold and in the following year 37 more

fetched £31. A Report dated 1817 refers to a previous Report of 1812 which recorded " in 2970 trees then standing in Greenwich Park, there were only 20 which were in a growing state, the others being either at Maturity, Decaying or Decayed ", and goes on to say that " the trees which at that time were at maturity have in the course of the five years altered very materially for the worse, and most of them are now in a decaying state ". This shows that virtually no planting had taken place during the previous century.

14. The Report of 1817 recommended the immediate felling of 475 trees and the planting of 1,000: largely elm, with Spanish Chestnut, larch, firs and beech. The following year 126 trees were recommended for felling, but 276 for planting as replacements. It is clear that many of the trees flourishing in the Park today stem from these and succeeding plantings, though the only completely new plantation was that bordering the east wall of the Park alongside Maze Hill Road, where Princess Sophia, the then Ranger, had a plantation made in 1823 to screen the new burial ground of Greenwich Hospital from the Park. Even so, in 1850 a further Report recorded that " the trees, collectively, assume various degrees of luxuriance and decay, and on the whole the latter is making considerable progress ". This Report went on to recommend " the removal by degrees of the straight lines of trees which shut out from view these beautiful hills ", a policy which has produced some alteration in the layout of the Park but not yet a really significant change in its appearance.

Future Policy

15. This account of the history of the Park, based on information supplied by officers of the Ministry, makes it clear that a decision must now be taken on the layout to be given to the Park in the future. After visiting the Park in 1954 your Committee recommended that in future gaps in the Avenues should not be filled by sporadic plantings of different species but that existing Avenues should be maintained and restored, and plans made for their eventual replacement by new trees. The acceptance and implementation of these recommendations was therefore equivalent to a reversal of the recommendation in the Report of 1850.

16. This policy, however, would amount to a decision to perpetuate the appearance of the Park as it was in 1954, and your Committee have considered whether this would be satisfactory in the light of what we now know of the history of the Park. We do not feel that it is.

17. We feel little doubt that le Nôtre visited Greenwich in 1662, and probably made sketches for the layout of the park, although the design itself is a blend of English and French tradition in formal layout. A major difference in the contemporary landscape practice of the two countries was that while le Nôtre tended to carve his avenues and shapes out of existing woodlands and forests, the English usually defined their shapes by planting trees on what had already become open grassland. Greenwich Park is still potentially the finest interpretation in England of a layout based on that grand European 17th-century conception of design that governed also the grouping of the build-

ings leading to the river. For this reason your Committee have debated whether we can recommend that this unique 17th-century formal layout could be restored to the original condition which has been exactly recorded in a contemporary print.

18. There is no doubt from direct observation that the exactly recorded design was in fact executed. The present state of the Park is due to the neglect of the 18th century, to the contrary ideas of policy in the 19th century and to the consequences of its use as a Public Park — the debasement of the design by the creation of cross paths and the slow obliteration of the ground modelling. Most old prints since 1700 indicate the decay in formality, and it may be that this gradual change is characteristic of the English temperament.

19. Your Committee have, however, noted the care and expense that has helped preserve and restore both the Palace and the Observatory, and we would ask that consideration be given to the restoration of the Park itself. The restoration would not be difficult and would require the following only:

(a) Renewal of trees adjoining the central axis in *exactly* the position indicated in the old print.

(b) A renewal in parts of the original ground modelling in order to define the architectural character.

(c) The elimination of the disfiguring cross paths, provided that reasonable alternative routes can be formed to harmonise with the basic geometry.

20. The Committee appreciate that use of a much-frequented public park is very different from that in the 17th century. Nevertheless we feel that the restoration of the giant grass steps is of the first importance and strongly recommend that it should be carried out. It would then be necessary to provide some adjoining hard steps for ascent and descent and, to discourage sliding on the grass steps (there are plenty of sliding slopes adjoining), there might be a parapet or guard rail on a new view platform in front of the Wolfe statue. The present platform is unworthy of the Observatory which it adjoins.

21. The Committee appreciate that the view from the platform is now historic, and includes a side view of St. Paul's seen across a reach of the Thames. Although this view cannot compare with that from the terrace of the adjoining Observatory, which comprehends east as well as west reaches of the Thames, it is felt that it should be preserved. It was presumably for this reason that the present hawthorns were planted, but they are insufficiently formal for this position. The Committee recommend that these in due course be renewed, perhaps with holly, which would give an ultimate height of less than thirty feet but would be sufficiently architectural to connect the upper to the lower landscape.

22. Whilst the preservation of the unity of the landscape between Blackheath and the river could be largely achieved by the treatment of the central axis alone, the preservation of the remaining cross avenues is also highly desirable and should be considered an integral part of the recommendations put forward here for the Park as a whole.

Forestry and Arboriculture

Present Conditions

23. Tree growth in Greenwich Park is influenced by the situation, surroundings and general conformation of the area. The Park, 196½ acres in area, is divided naturally into two almost equal parts by an irregular ridge or scarp which no doubt indicates a former course of the River Thames. This escarpment separates the low-lying riverine gravels and sands from the plateau land above, which forms the southern portion of the area over which the dry and often compacted pebbly soils possess no great degree of fertility but nevertheless, in places, support imposing tree-growth. Because of the proximity of Greenwich Park to the tidal reach of the Thames the local climate is equable, while a considerable degree of shelter is derived from the particular conformation of the land. However, situated as it is directly to the east of the Metropolis, in the eye of the prevailing south and west winds, smoke and fumes from this widely built-up area have had, and still have, an influence on the growth of local vegetation, including trees. The conifers have suffered from this pollution and the poor growth of the cedars in the Flower Garden is very noticeable. It is very doubtful whether those planted in recent years will ever grow into shapely trees, nor is the example of the older specimens at all encouraging. Other species have also been affected, and it will require an abatement of this nuisance, of which fortunately there are some signs, before the full range of trees which the Park has once supported can be grown again.

24. Among other arboricultural features this area has been noted for the successful growth of the Spanish (or Sweet) Chestnut *(Castanea sativa),* both in the Avenues and singly about the Park, where a number of specimen trees still stand which appear to date from about the 1660s. Some of these ancient chestnuts have attained great girth and height — one particularly large tree standing in the Flower Garden having a girth approaching twenty-five feet. Other noble trees of this species adorn the Avenues. But the years are taking toll of these notable Spanish Chestnuts : many of the venerable specimens have developed signs of decay rendering it necessary to lop and so lighten their crowns. The tree has proved itself so well adapted to the local growing conditions that every endeavour ought to be made to maintain the stocking of the species, especially in the Avenues.

25. The Spanish Chestnut is by no means the only forest tree that can flourish in Greenwich Park. Oaks, elms, limes, horse-chestnuts and the London plane all demonstrate their ability to develop stately growth in the conditions that obtain, as also do a number of minor species including birch and hawthorn. The stem of Queen Elizabeth's Oak mentioned in paragraph 4, which still stands to the west of the Magnetic Observatory, ivy-covered and upright although now quite dead, bears witness to what the soil and climate of Greenwich Park could once produce. If the authorities press on with the abatement of smoke and fumes, and given time, care and patience, such fine timber trees can again be grown in this Royal Park. With sound, well-rooted nursery stock, properly planted, and provided the young standard trees are afterwards carefully tended and protected, any of the broad-leaved species referred to can then be made to thrive in this area.

26. The horse-chestnuts bordering Blackheath Avenue are developing regularity of growth and an imposing dignity. The shapely and uniform progress of the earlier planted lime avenues is becoming a pleasing feature, although other similar but more recent plantings of the species are failing to attain symmetry for want of pruning, needed particularly to check early forking.

General Principles

27. As always in the practice of forestry and arboriculture, guarantees of success in the planting of new trees and the replacement of ones that fall are to be found in the ability of the forester to look ahead in the exercise of his skill and to select for his plantings only those kinds of trees that are likely to succeed in the conditions he is able to offer. Even with the most rapidly growing species he must be patient; trees always seem slow to develop, and in order to obtain and preserve the required effects there must be steadfast adherence to long-term objectives. The aim is to ensure an uninterrupted succession of tree growth by regular replantings of the required species. The question of succession is of paramount importance. In the nature of things trees die from time to time or become unsightly or dangerous to the public; park trees are no exceptions to this universal rule. Occasional fellings therefore become unavoidable, causing gaps and frequently giving rise to criticism and complaint that a familiar landscape has been destroyed. One of the functions of long-term management is to anticipate disasters from natural causes and to plant, betimes, in the near neighbourhood of threatened specimens so that, when they disappear, there may be other well-established younger trees so sited as to relieve any sense of loss. Over areas in which trees are all about the same age, the beauty they present is especially vulnerable. The safeguard is to encourage tree growth in a regular succession of development from the sapling stage to maturity and beyond, just as the forester relies upon a rotational succession of age-classes in his forest to maintain full stocking and to safeguard his periodic out-turn of timber without drawing wastefully on his stock of growing timber.

28. We have previously recommended that the patching of the existing Avenues with different species should be stopped. In order to deal with this problem and with the problem of succession at the same time we recommend that the alien species should be removed wherever possible and in the gaps thus left trees of the original species should be planted. This policy cannot be successful if only one tree is removed, since it will be overshadowed by its neighbours. Fortunately there are a number of places where the gaps thus created will be at least two trees wide, but where this is not so the necessary space must be provided by felling some of the earlier plantings. This policy should be applied, for example, in the Bower Avenue.

29. Elsewhere, for example in the western extension of Great Cross Avenue, succession can be ensured by planting a new Avenue outside the existing one.

30. Attention to arboricultural detail is needed in the Flower Garden, where some ancient Spanish Chestnuts and oaks have died back so far that the necessary topping has rendered them unsightly. None of these trees can at present be described as dangerous, but they have reached a stage at which they no longer serve their purpose in the particular surroundings in which they stand. They should be felled and one or more well-grown and carefully

lifted saplings of the same species should be planted near the veteran stumps as soon as possible. The young cedars planted in recent years should be removed, together with the older specimens as these become unsightly. They can be replaced with one or two specimens of sorbus, mulberry or tulip trees as appropriate.

31. It is fitting that planting in the Royal Parks should include a sufficient provision of berry-bearing trees and shrubs attractive to birds, such as hawthorns, the various species of *Pyrus* and *Prunus* and holly, which yield food so valuable to bird life, especially in winter. The species chosen should be genuine fruit-bearers and not merely ornamentals.

32. The plantation known as the Wilderness holds the small surviving remnant of the herd of fallow deer that formerly grazed throughout the area of Greenwich Park. Subject to tests of the soil, the small open spaces might be planted up with Turkey Oak, Sessile Oak or Spanish Chestnut, but any planting done in this area will need protection from the browsing deer.

33. Your Committee also recommend that more trees and shrubs be planted on the bank surrounding the Reservoir in part of the Ranger's Field to complete the screen.

Flora and Fauna

Flora

34. In his book, published in 1902, A. D. Webster, in the course of his period as Park Superintendent, identified as many as 250 species of plant life in Greenwich Park, but of these relatively few wild plants survive today. For this the small size of the Park and the continuous passage of the feet of many visitors is largely responsible. Moreover, almost all the area is now regularly mown and the surviving natural *flora* is confined chiefly to the steeper slopes and odd corners where the gang-mowing machines in use cannot operate or to the few enclosed areas not open to the public.

35. The ground vegetation clothing the Park now consists mainly of grasses common to dry basic grassland, the species most in evidence being perennial rye grass *(Lolium perenne)*, Red fescue *(Festuea rubra)* together with Cocksfoot *(Dactylis glomerata)*, Meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and the minor weeds usually found in dry grassland associations. Where the sward is not regularly mown, Hardheads *(Centaurea scabiosa)*, Goatsbeard (*Tragopogon pratensis)*, Mallow *(Malva sylvestris)* and occasional Bittersweet *(Solanum dulcamara)*, White Bryony *(Bryonia dioica)* and a few other wild plants characteristic of bushy places on such soils are to be found. Elsewhere in the Park may be found patches of Sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella)*, which bear testimony to local leaching and sour soil, and a few scattered colonies of Mugwort *(Artemisia vulgaris)* and the introduced *Polygonum cuspidatum*. Others of the more rank growing perennials also occur.

Fauna

36. Although Greenwich Park has become effectively isolated from the Kentish countryside by urban development, the fox still visits the area from

time to time. A pair of foxes were frequently viewed in the Park during the winter of 1962-63, their footprints in the snow making it easy to follow their movements. The vixen's regular route was through the railings at the top of Maze Hill; the dog fox entering the Park from Crooms Hill. The pair usually met by the lake for a meal of wild duck. When confronted by a member of the Park's staff the dog fox has snarled and shown his fangs before making off otherwise undisturbed by the encounter.

37. Numbers of grey squirrels dwell in the Park, and it is a common sight to see visitors feeding them despite the fact that some of the unwary have been bitten. Squirrels do considerable damage to trees and shrubs by gnawing and stripping the bark, especially that of trees of the maple family, and by stripping off buds and young shoots, a diet which they vary by digging up and making off with flowering bulbs. Hedgehogs and some of the common rodents still make their homes in the Park, but the tally of species now found within its boundaries is only a remnant of the full list of mammals native to the countryside of Southern England. The built-up barrier round about clearly reflects the influence of dense human habitation on the survival of wild life in such surroundings. Badgers, stoats and weasels, hares and rabbits, have all forsaken the Park and, although access from the Thames Estuary is not quite cut off, many years have passed since an otter was seen in the locality.

38. Deer no longer roam at large in Greenwich Park. The herd of fallow deer, estimated by A. D. Webster in 1902 to number 150 head, has been reduced to a dozen confined to the small area known as the Wilderness. History has left us no record of red deer or roebuck at Greenwich.

39. Webster also mentions 81 species of bird as occurring in the Park during the period 1896-1901, 34 of which bred. A Report of the Committee on Bird Sanctuaries in the Royal Parks published in 1949 records that during the year 1947 68 species were observed, of which 35 were thought to have bred. Thus despite the much greater use of the Park by the public and other changes, and despite the relatively small size of the area set aside as a bird sanctuary, the bird population at that date compared well in number of species with what it had been half a century earlier.

40. The following years showed a sharp decline in the observed bird population, and in 1955 the number of species fell to 43, due no doubt largely to building development in the neighbourhood which isolated the Park still further from the more rural areas. Due in part perhaps to the improvements in the Wilderness Bird Sanctuary there have since been signs of recovery, and the 1962 figures show 62 species recorded, 20 of which are believed to have bred. This increase gives grounds for hoping that the downward trend has at least been checked.

41. It would no doubt have pleased W. H. Hudson, who in 1898 lamented the disappearance of the jackdaws and owls from Greenwich Park, to learn that both these birds were back in the Park — the former as a breeding species and the Tawny Owl amongst those observed.

Summary of Recommendations

42. Our principal recommendation, and one in the light of which all the other recommendations should be read, is that, as argued in paragraphs 17

to 22, every effort should now be made to restore the plan of the Park as nearly as possible to the layout shown in the 17th-century print, a copy of which is reproduced with this Report. As far as possible the actual measurements should be taken from this print, which is a scale drawing, though it will be necessary in some cases to depart from the plan at present where new avenues have to be planted parallel to existing ones in order to ensure succession.

43. The following detailed recommendations are made in order to outline how this policy could be carried out, though they are not meant to cover all the steps which would be necessary. We are not ourselves in a position to make the detailed survey of the work which will be needed in the Park, which we hope the Ministry will now put in hand :—

(a) The terraces below Observatory Hill should be repaired and restored to their original appearance as shown in the old plans (paragraph 19).

(b) The four paths crossing a line drawn from the Wolfe statue to the Queen's House should be reduced in number and where they cross this vista made to bisect the axis of the Park at right angles (para. 19).

(c) The giant grass steps on Observatory Hill should be restored (para. 20).

(d) In order to prevent these grass steps again being lost, hard steps should be provided alongside them, and the platform at the top of the hill should be altered and railed in (para. 20).

(e) Trees should be planted alongside the steps ; these trees should not reach a height of more than thirty feet (para. 21).

(f) As far as possible the full extent of the original cross avenues should be restored ; it is appreciated that this cannot always be done completely — for example where one of the avenues would cross the cricket pitch (para. 22).

(g) More attention should be paid to the pruning of new trees than has been given in the past (para. 26).

(h) The original species should be used for the restoration of the cross avenues ; where avenues contain intrusive species these should be removed and the opportunity used to create gaps wide enough for replacement trees to be planted in line with the existing trees. This will avoid the displacement and enlargement of an avenue caused by planting new trees parallel to it, which will, however, be necessary in some cases (para. 28).

(i) Some oaks, Spanish Chestnuts and cedars in the Flower Gardens should be removed and replaced as recommended (para. 30).

(j) Some planting of the Wilderness at the Reservoir should be carried out as recommended (paras. 23 and 33).

---

44. In submitting this Report we wish to express our thanks to the Secretary for his assistance and record our appreciation of the help afforded by other officials of the Ministry.

Signed on behalf of the Committee

W. L. Taylor *(Chairman)*

Sources consulted

"Greenwich Park" : A. D. Webster, 1902.

"The Palace and Hospital : a Chronicle of Greenwich" : L'Estrange, 1886.

"Henry Wise, Gardener to Queen Anne" : D. Green, 1957.

"Planners of Royal Gardens" : D. Green, Country Life, March, 1956.

"Greenwich" : Professor C. Lloyd, Transactions of A.M. Society, 1960.

"Remarks on the Founding and carrying on the Building of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich" : N. Hawksmoor, 1727.

Diary of Samuel Pepys.

Boswell's London Journal and Life of Johnson.

Office of Works papers on Trees, Greenwich Park, 1795-1897.

M.O.W. Guide to Royal Parks : Richard Church, 1956.

Reports of the Advisory Committee on Bird Sanctuaries in the Royal Parks.

Plans

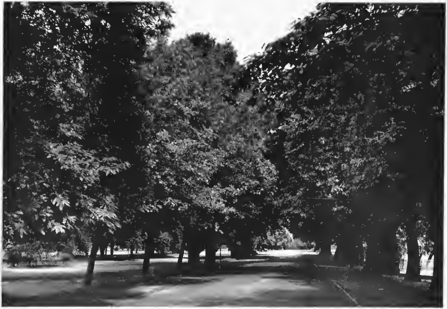
In Pepys' Library *c.* 1675-80.

Henry Wise's *c.* 1695.

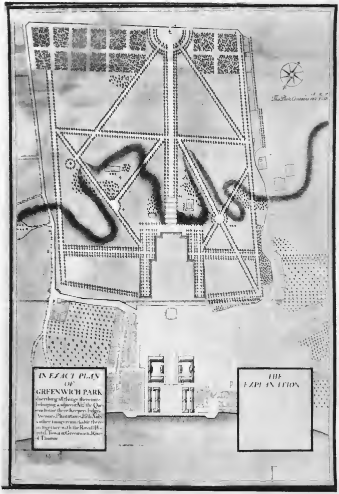
Three published in Wren Soc. Vol. VI *c.* 1700-1720.

Printed in England for Her Majesty's Stationery Office
by Verstage Bros. Ltd., Basingstoke.

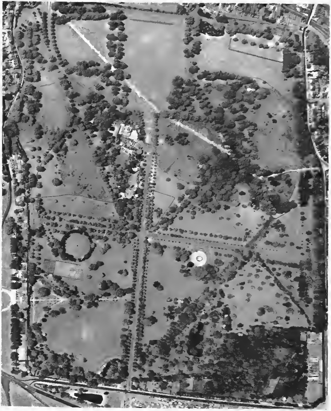
(L456) Wt 2035—L4254 K6 12/64 V.B. Gp. 433



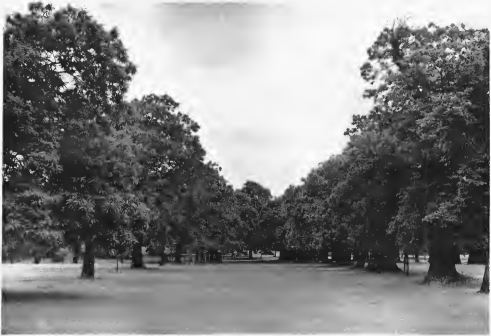
1. *View of Bower Avenue showing intrusive species*


This Park Contains 102 A R P 1 2
AN EXACT PLAN OF GREENWICH PARK
describing all things thereunto belonging & adjacent viz. the Queens house there Keepers lodges Avenues Plantations Hills Walks & other things remarkable therein together with the Royall Hospital Town of Greenwich River of Thames

2. *Reproduction of the plan in the Pepys Library*



3. *Modern aerial view of Greenwich Park*
[*Aerofilms and Aero Pictorial Limited*]



4. View of Great Cross Avenue